

THE SEPTEMBER MAGAZINES.

"THE GALAXY." "Overland," Chapters VI, VII, VIII, IX, and X; "Milk," by John C. Draper, M. D.; "Historic Doubts Concerning Patrick Henry," by Edward A. Pollard; "Patience," by H. H.; "The Album of the Regiment," by the French of Edmond About; "Ten Years in Rome—The Inquisition;" "Lady Judith: a Tale of Two Continents," Chapters I, II, III, and IV, by Justin McCarthy; "Unpardoned," by Edgar Fawcett; "Temperaments," by Titus Munson Coan, M. D.; "Three Women," by Richard Grant White; "Three Singers," by G. "Drift-wood," by Philip Quillbet; "Literature and Art;" "Memoranda," by Mark Twain; "Nebulae," by the editor.

To what depths of humiliation must Virginia have descended when a Virginian undertakes to demolish the historic reputation of one of Virginia's famous heroes in the style that Mr. Edward A. Pollard does in his "Historic Doubts Concerning Patrick Henry?" Mr. Pollard certainly makes out a good case against the famous orator, but also that such things should be written, and by a member of the F. F. Vs. We quote some portions of Mr. Pollard's article:—

It will be asked, who could be more intelligent witness to the eloquence of Patrick Henry than his biographer, the elegant and accomplished William Wirt? We answer, the witness is only one who swears to exist his subject, after the common fashion of that biography which Macaulay names among our wild literary nannies; one whose own literary conceits were enormous; one who notoriously gives us Henry's speeches in the classic style of the oratio obliqua, himself practising the rhetorical; one than whom no single person could have been selected from Henry's contemporaries better calculated to give us an entirely unreliable description of the man, and, at best, more likely to make his falsehoods plausible and dangerous by the deceptions of his fancy and the peculiarities of his style.

Let us meditate the remarkable, important fact that the volume of Wirt is, strictly speaking, the only historical evidence we have of the assertion, grown familiar in our day, and repeated with such unquestioning assent, that Patrick Henry was a great orator. Now, what is the value of this testimony? The same Mr. Wirt wrote "The Blind Preacher;" and the facts turned out to be that James Waddell was not an excellent old man, but not much above the mediocrity of speakers; that no one was more surprised than himself at Wirt's eulogy—deeply mortified, in fact, as the honest man confessed himself to be, by the extravagance of his biographer; that even he was not blind, suffering only from the weakness of his eyes; and that he actually never did preach the sermon from which "The British Spy" professed to quote literally some one or two sentences! Now, is it at all improbable that the same author may have done in a measure for Patrick Henry what he did for James Waddell? and, indeed, is there any evidence but that of a page of Wirt that Patrick Henry ever did actually make that "give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death" speech whose inspirational words have been mouthed on the hustings and repeated fornically by little boys for three-quarters of a century? It is an unwelcome task to destroy a pleasing and romantic picture which we have been in the habit of accepting as true. But if we are to speak with the severity of the historian, we have to say that the evidence which Patrick Henry ever made such a speech is not worth a bauble, and that, on the contrary, there is reason to believe that he never did utter said oft-quoted invocation! We say so, because it is only Wirt who reports the speech; because he produces it in such connection as to show that it is (the author) evidently, though not by literal confession, making a speech for himself; and because, if Henry had so spoken, it is likely that it would have been noticed by some of his numerous and capable auditors, the utermost being bold, and not likely to be galled by their memories. But granted that Henry spoke in *totidem verbis*; what, we should like to know, is the particular eloquence of it? True, it is brave, fervent, and all that—but is it not a trifle trite? Or, to be strictly honest, is it not a plagiarist taken from that classic morsel in "the Reader," "Sempronius' Speech for War," which the writer recollects to have recited in school when he was ten years old, and thought to be capable of the instruction of "liberty or death?"

It is to be noticed that this wonderful speech described by Wirt is introduced into the Virginia Convention of 1774, which sat in the city of Richmond. How is it, then, that of the many members of this Convention who themselves spoke on the question—that of a resolution that the colony "be immediately put into a state of defense"—none have testified to the earnestness of a declaration attributed to Henry, a thing so remarkable and in which they themselves were involved as debaters? Among his so silent and uncommunicative auditors were such men as Nicholas Bland, Pendleton, Harrison, Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Mason, Page, and notably Jefferson, who did on another occasion, in the House of Burgesses, notice, and in frequent detail too, another effort of the same orator. That Patrick Henry did make a speech in this Convention we do not doubt. He was the mover of the resolution, and he naturally spoke to it. Judge Tucker refers to the calm speaking to the question "with all the calm dignity of Cato of Utica"—a stoicism quite unlike the fierce and incandescent product of Wirt. This, certainly, could not have been the speech that tradition tells of. A recent historiographer who has meddled in the subject attempts to bring some support or color to Wirt, by a conversation, an oral statement derived from "an old Baptist clergyman" who, however, gives his support no further than describing the orator as speaking with such zeal that "the tendons of his neck stood out like whip-cords." Which is true, Judge Tucker or the Baptist clergyman? And, in such conflict, we may not be pardoned for dropping the question, and committing ourselves to a wise skepticism as to whether Patrick Henry did actually speak a single one of those sentences which Wirt has rehearsed?

But it will probably be said that our assertion has been too broad, to the effect that Henry's contemporaries have not testified to such greatness of eloquence as Wirt has described, and there will be obvious quotations, even from the tame and critical Jefferson, as to his power of oratory. Granted; but when we come to analyze the evidence of Mr. Jefferson, we find it on near examination not only to be equivocal, but to suggest new suspicions as to the true measure of Henry's gifts. If the truth must be fully told, Thomas Jefferson was among the most envious of men; one has only to read the "Ann" to see

this infirmity displayed in the busy, painful canvassing of the opinions of posterity, which to make the more effective he transported to the shelter of the grave. There is a curious ingenuity of envious persons in making the most extravagant concessions of certain virtues or qualities in their rivals, only that with better grace and deeper effect they wound other parts of their characters or lives. Of this common deception or hypocrisy we think Mr. Jefferson has furnished a melancholy instance in the estimate of Patrick Henry which he has left to the world; that is, if the inconsistencies and contradictions of this estimate mean anything else than an utter looseness of conception, the mandarin incoherence of an inappreciable witness—of which hypothesis we must certainly acquit "the sage of Monticello." "Henry was a great orator," says Mr. Jefferson rapturously; but then, after that was said, the great orator was ignorant, was fond of low company, herded with overseers, changed his shirt but once a fortnight, and was so brutally dull that he had to confess that he could not find resolution in a whole winter to read a few chapters that had been recommended to him in Hume's "History of England." He suffered from "incorrigible idleness," "his mind was trifling, dancing, and pensive." Now, in this testimony it requires no deep insight to detect the marks of a man at cross purposes, attempting to disguise an almost fierce envy or contempt under the preface of an insincere compliment. And besides this suspicion of Mr. Jefferson's sincerity, his testimony in some instances is so utterly at variance with well-ascertained facts, that we may apply to it the rule, *falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*, and declare that the evidence which he holds to Mr. Webster at Monticello of his quondam contemporary to be utterly worthless.

So far from Patrick Henry being the dullard here represented, we have been told by one who knew him well in Richmond, that he was such a student in his law office that he was known, in preparing for a single case of litigation, to have shut himself up for three days, during which he did not see his mother, and his food was handed by a servant through the office door! Mr. Wirt will have his hero most an "inspirational speaker," while the Richmond witness makes him a perfect *fog*, whose preparations must have stunk most unpleasantly of the lamp.

At the very time Mr. Jefferson has the orator unable to digest the plain and agreeable prose of Hume, Mr. Wirt has him reclined under the forest trees, in true pastoral style, reading Livy in the original Latin. Another witness comes forward to Mr. Jefferson's aid, and another Governor of Virginia reports the orator as habitually using a language not above the dialect of the negro, Mr. Randall, in his "Life of Jefferson," thus introduces Patrick Henry:—"He talked like a backwoodsman about man's natural parts, being improved by *larkin*, about the *yearth*, etc." And this added in a footnote:—"Governor Page of Virginia used to relate on the testimony of his own ears that such was the pronunciation of the subject of this sketch." What then, shall we believe of the stress of inconsistencies, and the "forest-born Demosthenes," after all, a mythical personage? Even as to the article of dress, there is a contradiction of testimony; and Mr. Jefferson's cruel description is manifestly false. So far from the great orator being clownish or unclean in his dress, he seems to have been essentially luxurious in it, and on occasions to have practised a peculiarity in it of the weakest and most bizarre description. The diamond he displayed was worthy of Fisk, Jr. His usual attire in the Legislature of Virginia was "stunning"—the body of his dress of white cravat, and a red velvet mantle thrown over the shoulders! Really, as we collect the evidences of Mr. Henry's appearance and manners, there is a painfully increasing suspicion that there was an element of charlatany in them, or, at any rate, that the man was not really as he is in the picture-books of our day and in the pleasant traditions of an admiring posterity. As to his qualities as an orator, we have a theory of our own—one the merit of which is that it is consistent with each extreme in which he is represented by his contemporaries. And we may as well say here in advance and plainly that we have no idea that Patrick Henry was an orator in the sense that Cicero, or Burke, or Mirabeau was, and that the few certain historical evidences which we have on the subject completely exclude such a supposition.

The most important fact in his life which touches this question is one but little known to readers, or that has been slightly known to his partial biographer. It is that this man, for whom so much has been claimed as an orator, spent two years in the Continental Congress, when the early questions of the Revolution were being debated, when the most inspiring themes were appealing to mind and heart—set for these two whole years without ever venturing to speak once to an assembly so well qualified to hear him, if he had indeed been a great orator, and so well disposed to entertain him, if indeed a great reputation had preceded him. If the delegate from Virginia was really the incomparable orator that had inflamed the House of Burgesses at Williamsburg, how could he have remained for two years this figurehead in Congress, and that when questions calculated to stir men's hearts to their depths required him to speak? It is the quality of true eloquence that it cannot contain itself, that it dares all assemblies, that it recognizes the variety and numbers of its audiences only to draw inspiration from them. Was Patrick Henry afraid of the reputation he had made on obscure occasions in Virginia? Did he fear to risk it in an assembly which Lord Chatham declared to exceed intellectually any parliament in Europe? Was he another instance of that phenomenon which we see so habitually in our meager Congress of to-day: men coming there with great local reputations, and with great expectations of their constituents, and never being heard of afterwards? We will not pursue these painful yet obvious and unavoidable inquiries; yet certain it seems, if Patrick Henry had been the orator represented by his biographer, he would not, in fact, distinguished man he was in Congress.

Patrick Henry had sat in Congress from 1774 to 1776. He declined a re-election, along with George Washington, who had been equally a "silent" member of this high assembly; but for Washington there was, of course, the excuse that he made no pretensions to eloquence. Henry had been flanked by other Virginia colleagues who spoke abundantly, and who made names as orators and debaters by his side. Such were Richard Henry Lee, Peyton Randolph, Richard Bland, and Edward Pendleton. He made not a single addition to his eloquence, where every incentive and every opportunity were offered; and, what is more remarkable, he went obscurely back into the Virginia Convention, to remain as silent and undistinguished there. Indeed, from his first apparition as orator and "Rebel," about the time he was designated by Lord (Governor) Dunmore as "a certain Pat-

rick Henry, of the county of Hanover, with a number of deluded followers" to the date of the Declaration of Independence in the Virginia Convention, i. e., the resolutions which proposed this movement in Congress, Mr. Henry appears to have veiled his otherwise eloquence he had, and to have been satisfied to repose on his laurels. He remained silent when the proposition for independence was about to be decided by the Virginia Convention. The "supernatural voice" was not heard on an occasion so great and exacting. Although a member of the committee that drafted the Declaration of Rights and the first Constitution of Virginia, Mr. Henry spoke on none of these inspiring themes, and he permitted another member of his committee to offer the resolution of independence. Such poverty of speech, to say the least, was unworthy of such an orator as Wirt has described and tradition has accepted. True, an explanation has been hinted that deeply involves Henry's integrity as a patriot. It has been conjectured that his zeal for liberty had declined, that he had undergone a change of his political opinions which he was unwilling to confess in public; and there has been brought to light in modern times a very curious letter from General Charles Lee, written in May, 1775, in which he refers to Mr. Henry on the supposition of a letter from the latter taking grounds against independence. But our explanation is different, and not so cruel. The falling off, we are disposed to believe, was that of the orator rather than of the patriot; and we must believe that at the peril of far worse suspicions. There must surely be some explanation of this utter want of evidence of the orator, just where the clouds of darkness are thickest. That Patrick Henry had been flattered that he had been overvalued by country audiences, and that was therefore a failure in Congress, it is reasonable to believe. But for whatever reason he failed, our general proposition is not disturbed, to the effect that the historical evidences of him as an orator are essentially deficient, and that of him in this character we are thus permitted most seriously to doubt.

If our Virginia orator failed to set the Susquehanna on fire, it was perhaps no more than his fate. He displayed no peculiarly like conspicuous circumstances in his life. It is a most remarkable, and we may add significant fact, that the greatest triumphs accorded to him by his biographers were won in comparatively obscure places and before small audiences. If we may except the apocrypha of the House of Burgesses, they were mostly affairs of the county meeting and the local gathering. If his neighbors thought him a "god," as Wirt says, that does not prove a great deal, as many a man's neighbors have expressed their prodigy; and the good people of Charlotte county have no peculiar claim, as we are aware, for putting their opinions instead of the world's, and having their apotheosis accepted by mankind.

Patrick Henry, we repeat, we cannot admit to be in any such sense an orator. What then shall we say? Certainly there lived such a man as Patrick Henry, and certainly he spoke with some remarkable effect in his day. Rather, let us take the hint just afforded us by Mr. Wirt, and reconcile a number of apparent contradictions, by concluding that Patrick Henry was a man of plain, distinctively known in our country (America) as *stump-speakers*, and that he was a very eminent representative of that class. To speak with volubility, to affect an audience with the vivacity of our delivery, to make vague impressions on them of assent, or of a sort of physical sympathy with the energy of our discourse, may have a certain merit; and it is quite sure to found with the precisely such a style as will account for the reputation of an orator. It is precisely such a style as will account for the most of the triumphs of Patrick Henry, while explaining the barrenness of the popular recollections of the man, and reconciling the curiously conflicting statements which we have of his ignorance, his want of real intellectual force, and yet, his unquestionable popularity as a speaker, and an undoubted fame as such, very unduly, but not improbably, expanded as the last has been by the literary art of a biographer and the characteristic extravagance of tradition. A theory, that answers so many exigencies is perhaps the best that can be formed under the circumstances.

If it offends the fancy of his countrymen, or the pride of his descendants, we shall be glad to have these point out to us wherein we may possibly and unwittingly have offended that true object of a common regard—the truth of history.

In behalf and in the interest of this truth, a few more words are indispensable. We have in this article nothing to do with the record of Patrick Henry as a politician, except so far as touches the question whether or not he was a great orator. But really, the one question enters into the other further than might be generally supposed. The maxim of Quintilian that "the orator must be a good man" has a deeper sense than that yielded on first reflection. The warmth that constitutes true eloquence must proceed from an amount and degree of sensibility such as can be furnished only by an acute and determined sense of virtue. The demagogue, the man who speaks in any sort of selfish interest, so far as any style of eloquence is concerned, cannot possibly be an orator in the highest and best sense of that term.

The test is an unfortunate one for Patrick Henry. Even throwing out of view the imputations which we have already seen cast upon his patriotism, and his relations to the movement for the independence of America, there is enough ascertained in his public career to condemn him, in measured language, as the most inconsistent of politicians, and the most detestable "turn-coat" of his day. He started by avowing himself the most democratic of democrats. He was a man of the people, "a poor wren," a democrat *in cetera*. He even quarrelled with the French cookery of Mr. Jefferson's table at Monticello, thought it unrepugnant to supplant the dish of "bacon and greens," and "did not approve of gentlemen abjuring their native virtues." Yet this excessive democrat, this homely companion of the people, we find twice involved in a plot to establish a dictatorship in Virginia. Such a plot existed in 1775. It was revealed in 1781, when Tarleton had raised to the banner of the Blue Ridge, when public affairs were disorderly, and when it was avowed that it was "necessary to place Mr. Jefferson hors de combat," to accomplish the scheme of the conspirators. It is true that the biographer of Mr. Henry labors to prove that he did not instigate or even actively engage in these plots; but they were known to him, and they must have been entertained by him, since he did not denounce them. There is reason to believe that in the first instance he only gave up the evil ambition when Colonel Archibald Cary, accusing his stepbrother in the lobby of the Legislature, said, "Tell Governor Henry for me, that the day of his appointment as Dictator shall be the day of his death—that he shall feel my dagger in his heart before the sunset of that day!"

When the Constitution of the United States was submitted for ratification, Mr. Henry opposed it as tending to consolidation, and as calculated from the large powers it gave the Executive to be the ruin of the country. Yet the last efforts of his eloquence—that from which he sank exhausted at Charlotte Court House—was to advocate the doctrine that "Virginia was to the Union only what Charlotte county was to Virginia," to pronounce the alien and sedition laws "good and proper"; and to picture "Washington at the head of a numerous and well-appointed army, inflicting military execution on the people of Virginia, as the probable and deserved consequence of their persisting in the line of policy laid down in the resolutions of 1798! A man whose public life could compass such inconsistencies, so utterly at variance, so audaciously contradictory, may have been a successful demagogue, may have been the very prince of "stump-speakers"; but he must have lacked, alike, the consistency of intellectual purpose and the integrity of moral principle, to constitute him a great orator.

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are now receiving freight as follows: FIVE CENTS PER 100 POUNDS, TWO CENTS PER FOOT, OR HALF CENT PER GALLON, 1 SHIP'S OPTION. INSURANCE ONE-EIGHTH OF ONE PER CENT. Extra rates on small packages iron, metals, etc. No receipt or bill of lading signed for less than fifty cents.

NOTICE.—On and after September 15th by this Company will be 10 cents per 100 pounds or 4 cents per foot, ship's option, sailing from New York to Philadelphia, and vice versa, on the Philadelphia and Charleston Steamship Line. Winter rates commencing December 15th. For further particulars apply to JOHN F. O'HILLY, 28 1/2 PIER 19 NORTH WHARVES.

THE REGULAR STEAMSHIPS ON THE PHILADELPHIA AND CHARLESTON STEAMSHIP LINE.

THIS LINE is now composed of the following first-class steamships, sailing from New York to Philadelphia, on FRIDAY of each week (last A. M.): ASHLAND, 800 tons, Captain Crowell. J. W. EVEKMAN, 692 tons, Captain Huckleby. SALVOR, 600 tons, Captain Ashcroft. J. W. EVERMAN, Friday, August 5. SALVOR, Friday, August 12. J. W. EVERMAN, Friday, August 19. SALVOR, Friday, August 26.

Through bills of lading given to Columbia, S. C., the interior of Georgia, and all points South and South-west, at as low rates as by any other route. Freight forwarded with promptness and despatch. Insurance one-half per cent, effected at the office in first-class companies. No freight received nor bills of lading signed on day of sailing. SOUDER & ADAMS, Agents, No. 3 DUCK STREET, Or WILLIAM P. CLYDE & CO., Agents, No. 129 SOUTH WHARVES, PHILADELPHIA. WILLIAM A. COURTENAY, Agent in Charleston. 624

PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY'S REGULAR MONTHLY LINE TO NEW ORLEANS, LA.

THE YAZOO will sail for New Orleans direct, on Tuesday, August 23, at 8 A. M. The REGULES will sail from New Orleans, direct on August 23rd. THROUGH BILLS OF LADING at as low rates as by any other route given to Mobile, Galveston, Indianola, Lavaca, and Brazos, and to points on the Mississippi river between New Orleans and St. Louis. Red River freight reshipped at New Orleans without charge of commission.

WEEKLY LINE TO SAVANNAH, GA.

THE WYOMING will sail from Savannah on Saturday, August 27, at 8 A. M. THROUGH BILLS OF LADING given to all the principal towns in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Tennessee in connection with the Central Railroad and Gulf Railroad, and Delaware steamers, at as low rates as by competing lines.

SEMI-MONTHLY LINE TO WILMINGTON, N. C.

THE PIONEER will sail for Wilmington, N. C., on August 17, at 8 A. M. Returning, will leave Wilmington Wednesday, August 24. Connects with the Cape Fear River Steamboat Company, the Wilmington and Weldon and North Carolina Steamship Companies, and the Wilmington Railroad to all interior points. Freight forwarded at as low rates as by any other route. Insurance effected when requested by shippers. Bills of lading signed at Queen-street wharf on day of sailing. WILLIAM L. JAMES, General Agent, No. 130 SOUTH THIRD STREET.

FOR NEW YORK, VIA DELAWARE AND SWIFT'S LINE TRANSPORTATION COMPANY.

EXPRESS STEAMBOAT COMPANY. The Steam Propellers of this company will commence loading on the 8th instant, leaving daily as usual. THROUGH IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. Goods forwarded to any point free of commission. Freight taken on accommodating terms. Apply to WILLIAM M. BAIRD & CO., Agents, No. 129 SOUTH DELAWARE AVENUE. JAMES HAND, Agent, No. 219 WALL STREET, New York. 345

NEW EXPRESS LINE TO ALEXANDRIA, GEORGETOWN, AND WASHINGTON, D. C., via Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, with connections at Alexandria from the most direct route for Lynchburg, Bristol, Knoxville, Nashville, Dalton, and the South-west.

Steamers leave regularly every Saturday at noon from the first wharf above Market Street. Freight received daily. WILLIAM P. CLYDE & CO., Agents, No. 14 North and South WHARVES, PHILADELPHIA. ELDRIDGE & CO., Agents at Alexandria. 61

WEAVER & CO., ROPE MANUFACTURERS AND SHIP CHANDLERS.

No. 29 North WATER Street and No. 28 North WHARVES, Philadelphia. ROPE AT LOWEST BOSTON AND NEW YORK PRICES. 41

CORDAGE, ETC.

EDWIN H. FITLER & CO., Factory, TENTH ST. and GERMANTOWN AVENUE. Store, No. 23 N. WATER ST. and 22 N. DELAWARE AVENUE. ENGINES, MACHINERY, ETC. PENN STEAM ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS.—NEAPE & LEVY, PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL ENGINEERS, MACHINISTS, BOILER-MAKERS, BLACKSMITHS, and FOUNDERS, having for many years been in successful operation, and being exclusively engaged in building and repairing Marine and River Engines, high and low pressure, Iron Boilers, Water Tanks, Propellers, etc., etc., respectively offer their services to the public as being fully prepared to contract for engines of all sizes, Marine, River, and Stationary; having sets of patterns of different sizes, are prepared to execute orders with quick despatch. Every description of pattern-making made at the shortest notice. High and Low Pressure Fine Tubular and Cylinder Boilers of the best Pennsylvania, Scotch, and Iron. Forgings of all size and kinds. Iron and Brass Castings of all descriptions. Roll Turning, Screw Cutting, and all other work connected with the above business. Drawings and specifications for all work done at the establishment free of charge, and work guaranteed. The subscribers have ample wharf dock-room for repairs of boats, where they can be in perfect safety, and are provided with blocks, blocks, falks, etc., etc., for raising heavy or light weights. JACOB C. NEAPPE, JOHN P. LEVY, 3105 BEACH and PALMER Streets. GILBERT TUBE WORKS AND IRON CO. JOHN H. MURPHY, President, PHILADELPHIA, PA. MANUFACTURE WROUGHT-IRON PIPE and Sundries for Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters, WORKS, TWENTY-THIRD and FILBERT Streets, Office and Warehouse, No. 42 N. FIFTH Street, 41